Astoria Baker City

Brookings Burns

Enterprise Eugene

Hermiston

La Grande

Medford

Ontario

Pasco

North Bend

Pendleton

Redmond

Walla Walla

Portland

Salem

Ukiah

Yakima

Beiiing

Hong Kong

Mexico City

Jerusalem

London

Moscow

Rome

Sydney

(in mph)

Boardman

John Day

Bend

REGIONAL CITIES

Today Hi Lo W

53 52

52 56

49 32 sf

59 41

62 51 50

52 37

50 60

57

61 40

50 32

35 pc 33 c

34 sf 46 c

38 c

36 c

38 sf 35 c

34 c 43 c

39 c

34 pc 38 c

33 sf

40 c 33 pc

42 pc

31 pc

WORLD CITIES

Today

Hi Lo´W

52

72 47

82

34

54 41

80

25 pc

57 t 50 s

33 pc 54 pc

21 pc 30 pc

33 c 67 sh 48

43 r

WINDS

Today

SW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

3 3

41 44

Wed.

Hi Lo W

52 54

53 54

63

60 49 sh

39 r 45 c

40 c

40 sh

39 r

47 c

47 c

47 c 39 r

45 c

44 c 46 r

40 r 41 r

48 c

46 r 39 c

42 r

43 c 43 r 49 c

42 c

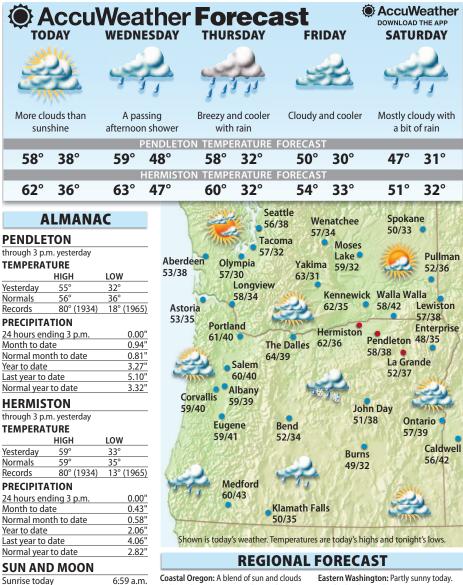
55

48

78

35

47 70



today; a shower in spots in the south

Eastern and Central Oregon: Rather cloudy today; a bit of snow and rain in central parts and near the Cascades.

Western Washington: Partly sunny today except more clouds across the south. Mostly Eastern Washington: Partly sunny today. Mostly cloudy tonight

shower in the morning, then a shower in the south. Northern California: Periods of rain today but 1-2 inches of snow in the interior

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. Cascades: Mostly cloudy today; a snow 8-10, Very High;

Forecasts and graphics provided by

AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) Wed. High 96° in McAllen, Texas Low -19° in Saranac Lake, N.Y. Hi Lo W 32 s **NATIONAL CITIES** 54 s Wed. Today Today 41 c Hi Lo W Hi Lo W Hi Lo W Hi Lo W 53 pc 21 c 34 pc Albuquerque Atlanta 37 s 37 pc 44 pc Louisville 38 sh Memphis 35 sn 32 sn Atlantic City 28 sn Miami 38 sh Baltimore 51 58 59 32 s Billings 48 30 pc Minneapolis 35 24 sn 28 c 66 r 36 r 41 c 34 s 50 sh 34 c 51 pc 47 r **New Orleans** 29 pc 46 r 33 r New York City Oklahoma City 32 sn 30 sn Boston 38 31 37 Charleston, SC Charleston, WV Omaha 30 sn 39 s Wednesday 29 pc 27 pc 46 s 28 pc 27 pc 27 c NNE 4-8 39 Cleveland Phoenix 80 58 s 65 pc Dallas 54 pc 35 pc Portland, ME 30 pc Denvei Providence 26 49 Detroit 42 71 42 82 25 35 20 Fairbanks 8 sn 22 0 pc 54 41 46 r 24 sn 71 pc 39 81 27 71 52 30 Fargo Honolulu Sacramento St. Louis 43 p 57 c 54 r Houston 49 Salt Lake City 59 26 c 47 t 22 pc Indianapoli **3-5**, Moderate **6-7**, High; 40 pc Jacksonville 80 San Francisco 29 c 57 pc 38 c 38 pc Kansas City Seattle The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num-Las Vegas 68 60 c 52 Washington, DC ber, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. Little Rock 63 39 32 pc 65 61 r Wichita Los Angeles 68 58 c

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day

50s 60s 70s

National Summary: A storm will bring rain, severe thunderstorms and wet snow to part of

the Eastern states today. Some snow will fall on the Upper Midwest and northern Rockies

Billing: 48/30

El Paso 71/49

-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s

while heavy rain moves into California.

0

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

REGONIAN

7:07 p.m.

10:52 p.m.

New

Apr 15

Last

Sunset tonight

Moonset today

Full

First

Founded Oct. 16, 1875 -

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Superstore chain Fred Meyer to stop selling guns, ammunition

PORTLAND (AP) — Superstore company Fred Meyer will stop selling guns and ammunition.

The Portland, Oregon,based chain in a statement Friday said it made the decision after evaluating preferences. customer The company sells guns at nearly 45 of its 132 stores in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

"Fred Meyer has made a business decision to exit the firearms category," the company said. "We are currently working on plans to responsibly phase out sales of firearms and ammunition."

company, The subsidiary of Cincinnati, Ohio,-based Kroger Co., didn't give a timeline in the statement. Fred Meyer spokesman Jeffery Temple in an email to The Associated Press on Saturday said the company wasn't offering interviews.

Fred Meyer stores sell a range of goods that include clothing, groceries, outdoor electronics, furniture equipment, and jewelry. Stores also include pharmacies.

The company the firearms category represents about \$7 million annually of its revenue and sales have been declining.

"We made the decision early last week after evaluating changing customer preferences and the fact that we've been steadily reducing this category in our Fred Meyer stores over the last several years due to softening consumer demand," the company "More recently we been transitioning have away from gun departments as a result of our ongoing work to optimize space in our Fred Meyer stores."

Following last month's high school shooting in Parkland, Florida that left 17 people dead, Fred Meyer said it would stop selling firearms to anyone under 21. The company already stopped selling assault-style guns several years ago, except in Alaska.

Fred Meyer did not the mention school shooting in its statement Friday.

Other stores announced in the wake of that shooting that they would stop selling guns to anyone under 21 including Walmart Inc. and L.L. Bean. Dick's Sporting Goods recently banned sales of assault rifles.

Several outdoor chains, including Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Gander Outdoors and Academy Sports, continue to sell assault-style rifles.

Cutting and leaving juniper may increase invasive grasses

ONTARIO (AP) — Agencies are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on juniper removal in an effort to increase native shrubs and grasses.

But a recent study by Oregon State University researchers says cutting juniper may lead to an increase in invasive grasses if the trees are simply left where they fall. The study was conducted from 2012 to 2016 in a

wildlife area between the Ochoco and Malheur national

Juniper trees toppled at the beginning of the study were left where they fell. Researchers later found that invasive grasses were more prevalent in areas of cutting than

Study co-author Lisa Ellsworth says juniper reduction is important for habitat and range health. But when the understory is compromised, follow up treatments such as herbicide and native-shrub seeding must be considered.

Oregon agency may be awash in red ink from water litigation

Lawsuit expenses may surpass budget by \$1.3 million

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI Capital Bureau

Oregon's water regulators are rapidly spending the \$835,000 they have available for litigation and may go nearly \$1.3 million over budget in the 2017-2019 biennium.

A request for more litigation funds was recently turned down by Oregon lawmakers, which means the Oregon Water Resources Department will probably ask the Legislature's Emergency Board for money later

If OWRD can't get additional litigation funds, the agency will have to delay replacing employees who have left, though it has yet to determine how many positions would remain unfilled, said Racquel Rancier, the department's senior policy coordinator.

About \$600,000 was spent on litigation within the first seven months of the biennium, which was roughly two-thirds of the money allocated for two full years of legal battles, Rancier said March 15 during a meeting of the Oregon Water Resources Commission, which oversees the agency.

Litigation costs have averaged about \$86,000 a month, so funds are expected to run out soon — particularly since several cases may go to trial, increasing the expense, she



Irrigation-related lawsuits filed against the Oregon Water Resources Department are causing the agency to spend a projected \$1.3 million more than originally budgeted for the current biennium.

At the current rate, OWRD is projected to spend about \$2.1 million on litigation in the current biennium.

The agency has a legislatively adopted budget of \$98.6 million for 2017-2019, down from \$107.4 million for the previous biennium.

Litigation over water has increased mostly due to more regulatory calls cutting off water to junior irrigators in the Klamath Basin, where an "adjudication" over the validity of water rights was completed in 2013, Rancier said. Since the lawsuits are

generally initiated against OWRD, the agency doesn't have control over the costs.

The problem is also growing worse: 25 new cases were filed against OWRD in 2015-2017, up from 13 new cases in 2013-2015 and 5 new cases in 2011-2013.

OWRD plans to continue discussing the issue with lawmakers to convey what services the agency can't perform as a result of delayed hiring, Rancier said.

The agency plays a key role in Oregon irrigation by administering the state's water rights system, such as approving wells, diversions, leases and transfers.

When the agency issues a water call, a junior irrigator can stay enforcement of that regulation by filing a lawsuit,

said Tom Byler, OWRD's director.

OWRD can lift such an enforcement stay — as it did last year — but the process can take several weeks, during which a senior water user's rights are infringed, he said.

The ability to postpone water rights enforcement through liigation has long been "on the books," but has only recently been used this way, Byler said.

"It's troubling for us because it really undermines the prior appropriations doctrine," he said, referring to the "first in time, first in right" system of Western water law.

Correction

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner and other District 2 candidates will appear at a forum at Blue Mountain Community College Friday beginning at 6 p.m. An incorrect starting time was given following a Viewpoints column in Saturday's *East Oregonian*.

